

Youth Resource Connections

*Published bi-weekly by the
U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Youth Services
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210 (202) 693-3030,
http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/*

Volume 1, Number 1

January 23, 2004

Headlines

The Employment and Training Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and Nortel Networks Kidz (NNKOL) announces Pilot Project to Provide Basic Information Technology Skills to Job Corps Students. ETA and NNKOL will offer online technology training to new Job Corps students at three centers around the country. The three centers are: Potomac Job Corps Center, Washington, DC; Woodstock Job Corps Center, Frederick, Maryland; and the Los Angeles Job Corps Center in California. NNKOL's digital training model is designed to improve the information technology curriculum in the Job Corps program. To learn more visit <http://www.nnkol.org>.

The Employment and Training Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor will sponsor Groundhog Job Shadow Day. On February 6, ETA will recognize Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Students from the adopted school programs within the District of Columbia, local Job Corps and Youth Opportunity Grant programs will be given the opportunity to explore various careers within the Department of Labor. For information regarding this event contact: Jacqui Wash or Maisha Meminger at (202) 693-3036.

President Bush and U.S. Department of Education's (DOE's), Secretary Paige Celebrate Two Years of Progress for Nation's Students. President Bush and Secretary Paige celebrated the two year anniversary of the bipartisan "No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act". The anniversary celebration was highlighted at a roundtable discussion at the West View Elementary School in Knoxville, Tennessee. The President and Secretary provided remarks about the accomplishments of the law to date. For more information visit: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/01/01082004.html>.

U.S. Department of Education's (DOE's), Secretary Paige Announces New Initiatives to Support States' School Districts Efforts to Improve Reading Achievement. The Department of Education has unveiled a new initiative to help improve students' reading achievement. The new National Center for Reading First Technical Assistance will offer free training and support to states and school districts that have received Reading First grants. The Reading First grants are designed to improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction. For more information visit: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/01/01072004.html>.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Funds Grants to Train Young People and Expand Affordable Housing.

HUD's Acting Secretary, Alphonso Jackson announced the award of \$54 million in grants, under the Youth Build Program. These grants will provide existing Youth Build sites funds for job training, leadership skills, and academic schooling to low-income young people and help build and rehabilitate affordable housing units for lower income families in communities throughout the country. For more information visit: <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr03-142.cfm>.

Job Shadow Coalition and Harris Interactive Conducts Teen Career Choice Poll. The poll shows that more than 51% of teens surveyed are not interested in pursuing jobs in the top five fastest-growing career fields. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has determined the nation will have critical workforce needs in the decade and beyond. To learn more about the results of the poll visit: http://www.jobshadow.org/current_news/current_news.html.

Institute on Community Integration (ICI) Teleconference. The ICI will sponsor a teleconference entitled: Rates of School Completion: Moving from Policy and Research to Practice Teleconference on Tuesday, January 27, 2004. This conference call will discuss critical issues linked to school completion for youth with disabilities, describe research-based interventions, and introduce the Check and Connect model for drop out prevention. Teleconference is open to the public. For additional information, contact (612) 624-2097 or visit: <http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences>.

Funding Opportunities

The National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families Invites Cities to Participate In a Technical Assistance Project.

This initiative will provide technical assistance to municipal leaders to foster high school learning communities that prepare all students for college, work and citizenship. Cities with populations of 30,000 and above are eligible to apply. For more information and application visit:

http://www.nlc.org/nlc_org/site/files/reports/high%20school%20rfp.pdf.

Deadline: January 30.

The National Center for Learning Disabilities, Inc. (NCLD) is Accepting Applications for the Anne Ford Scholarship.

The NCLD will fund a scholarship for a high school senior in a public or private secondary school. To be eligible individuals must have been identified as having a learning disability and achieved high merits with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. For application requirements visit: <http://www.nclld.org/awards/afscholarinfo.cfm>.

Deadline January 31.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., and Sam's CLUB Announce Community Scholarships.

Wal-Mart will award up to \$7 million in scholarships to assist high school seniors entering their first year of college. Awards can only be used for: tuition, books, fees and on-campus room and board. Applicants will be evaluated on their financial need, academic record, ACT/SAT scores, community/extracurricular involvement and work experience. For additional information visit: <http://www.walmartfoundation.org/wmstore/goodworks/scripts/index.jsp>.

Deadline: February 1.

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) Announces a New Grant Competition. Circle will fund a grant for research on youth engagement led by youth. Research teams composed of youth and adults, young adults up to age 25 who have not attended college, and youth-led teams that are part of a non-profit organization, a local government agency or council, or a school are eligible to apply. Grant will not exceed \$25,000 and letters of inquiry will be considered. For more information visit: <http://www.civicyouth.org/grants/applying/index.htm>. **Deadline: February 18.**

Award Opportunities

The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Sponsor Poster Design Scholarship Competition. High school students interested in pursuing a career in design are invited to enter the Poster Design Scholarship Competition. To qualify, students must meet the following criteria: be a graduating high school senior, submit original poster design, current high school transcript, and a statement describing their design process and why they want to attend an Art Institute School. For additional information visit: <http://www.americansforthearts.org>. **Deadline: February 13.**

VSA arts Offers Awards for Youth and Teachers. The Playwright Discovery Award is available for youth. Middle and high school students are invited to submit playwrights expressing their views on how disability affects their lives and the lives of others. Student eligibility: must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. and in grades 6-12. Instructors are also eligible to apply for the Discover Teacher Award. The Teacher Award recognizes middle and high school teachers who creatively bring disability awareness to the classroom through the art of playwrighting. Teachers may self nominate, must be a U.S. citizen and teach students in grades 6-12. For additional information and award guidelines visit: <http://www.vsarts.org/>. **Deadline: April 15.**

Youth Offender Resources

Programs

The Delancey Street Restaurant's Prisoner Reentry Program is featured in *The New York Times* ("A Community of Ex-Cons Shows How to Bring Prisoners Back Into Society" 1/02/04). The staff of San Francisco's Delancey Street Restaurant is entirely comprised of ex-offenders. This organization is operated by the Delancey Street Foundation, which provides services such as job training, life skills training, and housing to juvenile and adult ex-offenders. To read this article, go to: www.nytimes.com; for more information about the Delancey Street Foundation, go to: <http://www.eisenhowerfoundation.org/grassroots/delancey/index.htm>.

The Safer Foundation is profiled in the *Chicago Tribune* ("Ex-Cons Get Hand to Help Find Jobs: Foundation Opens Center in Harvey for Former Felons" 12/26/03). By utilizing funds from the U.S. Department of Labor as well as other grants, the new Safer Foundation Employment and Learning Center in Harvey provides services such as job training, GED certification, life skills training and more to juvenile and adult ex-offenders in Chicago's suburban area. The Safer Foundation also operates facilities in downtown Chicago. To read this article, go to: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/>. For more information about The Safer Foundation, go to: <http://www.saferfoundation.org/>.

Publications

Juvenile Crime in Washington, D.C. This policy brief by the Urban Institute examines the increase of juvenile crime in Washington, D.C. The report compares juvenile crime statistics and the juvenile justice system to adult crime statistics and the adult corrections system. Go to: <http://www.urban.org>.

The Targeted Community Action Planning Toolkit. This resource, published by The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, is a step-by-step tutorial that helps communities identify and respond to their most critical juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs. The Toolkit includes tools designed to help community planners collect data, analyze information, and implement action plans. To download the Toolkit, go to: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/tcap/203300.pdf>

Educational Alternative for Vulnerable Youth: Student Needs, Program Type, and Research Directions. This report, by Laudan Y. Aaron and Janine M. Zweig examines the need for alternative education for youth in traditional public schools who are being left behind by high stakes assessments and high academic standards. A summary of findings from a roundtable on directions for future research on alternative education is included. Visit: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410898_vulnerable_youth.pdf.

Math, Science, and Technology: Essential Skills for Career Success in the 21st Century. This brief provides a quick and easy checklist for youth service practitioners to share with students as they explore careers of interest to them. The brief also highlights the importance of math, science, and technology course work in preparing young adults for top growing careers. To access the brief visit: http://www.ncwd-youth.info/assets/info_briefs/infobrief_issue7.pdf.

Websites

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Career Information Website. BLS has developed a website for youth based on their interest in the arts, science, physical education, social studies, reading, and math. To access this website visit: http://www.bls.gov/k12/html/edu_over.htm.

College Cost Central. This website, developed by the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and the Workforce, is a resource to provide assistance to parents, students and taxpayers concerned by increasing college costs. Visit: <http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/108th/education/highereducation/collegecostcentral.htm>

Americans for the Arts website offers resources to local communities that provide opportunities to youth through arts education. Visit: <http://www.americansforthearts.org>

Calendar of Events

February 6-8. Chicago, IL. YouthPartnersNET. Dare 2 Dream CompassionWorks 2004. Contact: (800) 334-5437.

February 10-12. San Antonio, TX. Public/Private Ventures: Working Ventures presents "Working with Employers" Partners in Difficult Times." Contact: Brian Rolon at (212) 822-2413, email brolon@ppv.org; or visit: <http://www.ppv.org>.

February 14-17. Arlington, VA. National Crime Prevention Council. 15th National Youth Crime Prevention Conference and International Forum. Contact: (202) 261-4165.

February 15-18. San Diego, CA. Foundations for a Brighter Future. Beyond School Hours VII. Contact: (800) 248-9990.

February 22-25. Washington, DC. National Network for Youth. Symposium 2004. Contact: (202) 783-7949.

February 23-25. Washington, DC. Child Welfare League of America. Children 2004: Vision, Action, Results. Contact: (202) 942-0308 or visit: <http://www.cwla.org/conferences>.

March 11-14. Orlando, FL. Performance Resource Press. 16th Annual National Student Assistance Conference. Contact: (800) 453-7733 or visit: <http://www.nsac.info>.

March 12-14 Colonial Williamsburg, VA. National Association of Secondary School Principals. Leadership Experience and Development Conference. Contact: (703) 860-0200 or visit: http://www.nasc.us/pdf/lead_brochure2004.pdf.